

REMARKS

Claims 2, 7-18 and 20-31 are pending in the instant application and have been rejected. Claims 2, 21 and 30 have been amended, and new Claims 32 and 33 are submitted for consideration by the Examiner. The amendment to Claim 1 is supported, for example, by Page 1, Line 30 of the instant specification which discloses conventional curing agents comprising acid functional ingredients.

Applicants respectfully submit that it is unclear whether the outstanding Office Action is Final or Non-final. Box 2b) of the Form PTOL-326 indicates that the Action is Non-final whereas Page 4 (item 8) of the Action indicates the Action is Final. Applicants respectfully submit that since two new references were applied in the last Action, it is appropriate for the Action to be Non-Final.

The rejection of Claims 2, 7-18 and 20-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lauterbach (U.S.P.N. 4,614,674) or JP-11116889, is respectfully traversed.

Neither of the prior art references disclose, teach or suggest that the claimed compounds can be used for curing epoxy functional compounds. Neither of the prior art references disclose, teach or suggest removing conventional curing agents and replacing such conventional curing agents with the claimed acrylate curing agents. Neither of the prior art references disclose, teach or suggest the advantages that can be achieved by using the claimed curing agents (and such advantages in a system that is substantially free of conventional curing agents).

JP '889 relates to using a laser to cure an epoxy system. While JP '889 does disclose a polymethacrylate, such is employed as an adsorbent. An adsorbent is not chemically or physically suggestive of an epoxy curing agent.

USPN '674 discloses using a metal complex along with a wax as a flattening agent. A skilled person in this art would not equate a flattening agent with an epoxy curing agent. Further the curing agent employed by USPN '674 (i.e., carboxyl-terminated polyesters) is an acid functional curing agent. The disclosure of USPN '674 does not suggest removing the carboxyl-terminated polyester curing agent along with its function. If the required polyester was removed from USPN '674 such would be expected to adversely affect, if not eliminate, the utility of USPN 674's invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references cannot establish a prima facie case of obviousness and, therefore, request withdrawal of these rejections.

It is noted that Claim 31 was not rejected over prior art and, accordingly, new Claim 32 is presented as Claim 31 re-written in independent form. Applicants respectfully request an indication that Claim 32 is allowed.

In response to the obviousness-type double patenting rejection over copending and commonly assigned Application Nos. 10/978,081 and 11/003,758, please find attached hereto terminal disclaimers with respect to such Applications. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Applicants request consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on February 12, 2006 which includes a copy of an International Search Report.

Should there be any fee due in connection with this application, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 15-0680 (ORSCHELN MANAGEMENT CO.). Should the Examiner deem that any further action on the part of Applicants would advance prosecution, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,



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